

Siebring

Flyer

June 2004



Wet Landology

Recently I finished my maintenance training and part of my flight. Still more flight is required to get up to the level of proficiency needed for field service. Our monthly ministry support also has remained below the minimum level needed to depart and with these events we are now in what I can only describe as the Lords holding pattern for our family.

We are open and willing for what is in store for us and one thing is for sure, none of this delay is any surprise to our Lord. Someone wrote to encourage us recently and shared that we may not see the light at the end of the tunnel because it is curved. I thought to myself how often life is like that. We hit unexpected curves but it is just another opportunity to trust our God and see him get the glory out of the situation.

In this journey of life there are many factors that determine our path. One factor would be our wills. In the life of the Christian our wills should be under the direction of our lord

Sometimes I feel as though the will of God is like a river in the coastal wet lands I used to fly over in Maine. It twists and turns with no direct route from beginning to end but it eventually gets to where it needs to go. There are the plans and timing we would like in life but the Lord always hold the trump card. Proverbs 16:9

We will just enjoy the journey and keep you up to date what we find around the next bend. A life in the will of God is the greatest adventure. -Ray



Do Your Kids Want To Get Involved In Missions?

If the answer is yes then we need your help. Our kids Elias, Gabriella & Josiah are looking for prayer partners who will join them and pray for them individually and maybe even become pen pals.

Each of our children are building their own prayer partner team so that they can directly communicate with you their individual needs and happenings.

If you are interested then please email us at rsiebring@maf.org and indicate for which Siebring sibling you wish to join as their prayer partner.



LESOTHO PROFILE

The economy of Lesotho is based almost entirely on agriculture, livestock raising, and the earnings of Basothos employed outside the country. About two-fifths of the adult male labor force works in South Africa. The GDP stood at \$797 million in 2001, or \$390 per person a year.—MS Encarta



Two Birthdays, One Girl

The last letter we sent told you all about our beautiful Gabriella turning three. You may be wondering why we would be writing about a birthday involving Gabriella again in this letter. Well, Bella had a Birthday of a different sort this past month.

It was a normal evening in our home. The kids had just finishing all their bed time preparations and were waiting patiently in their room for me to come read them a bed time story and say their bed time prayers with them. When I entered the bed room Bella was laying on her bed looking at her Bible picture book. Bella looked at me and began telling me how her Bible says you have to ask Jesus into your Heart so that you can go to Heaven. I told her that she was right, we do have to ask Jesus into our hearts to be saved. She immediately responded with, "I want to do that!"

Gabriella and I then walked out to the living room so she could tell her Daddy about her chose to ask Jesus into her heart. Ray sat Gabriella on his lap and told her to go ahead and pray and that we would pray after her. Gabriella prayed asking Jesus to live inside of her and forgive her of her sins so that she can go to Heaven some day. After she finished her prayer, Gabriella said, "Ok, let's go read some books now."

I wish we all could have that kind of child like faith. -Julie



Flight & Maintenance Orientation

If pictures are worth a thousand words then I don't need to write much here except to explain the purpose of these pictures. Over the last eight weeks I have been involved in a fairly intensive technical orientation and standardization program for both maintenance and flight.

To put it simply we are taught to do things the MAF way. The mission of MAF is to overcome barriers to the gospel and we use the tools of technology to do this. Some of these barriers are pretty rough such as the mountains in the country of Lesotho where we will be serving. So all this training is invested to teach us to operate in this intense environment safely.

During our maintenance orientation we performed an aircraft inspection as well as tore down and rebuilt several aircraft components such as an alternator. We fixed any open discrepancies on the aircraft knowing full well that these were the planes we would be flying in a few weeks.

Flight training began nice and light but quickly I found myself dealing with the illusions of terrain flying or landing on marginal strips. Once the basics we taught we put them into practice with a trip to Idaho where we daily flew some of the most technically challenging strip in the lower 48 states. It was not for the faint of heart but by the end of the week amazingly it had become comfortable and we were able to operate within safe margins.

I remember looking up the take off figures for a particular strip and concluding we would lift off in about 800 ft. I said to my instructor that leaves us plenty of margin. Then it hit me. The strip I was talking about was only 1427 feet long in the bottom of a canyon with a mountain at the end of it and now this felt normal. I must be an MAF pilot. — Ray



Our Tentative Timeline...

Working in the head-quarters hangar & Continue Raising support till completed July, '04

Deputation in Canada Aug, '04

Depart for Lesotho Unknown

WEBSITE NEWS

If you are online, we invite you to visit our families website monthly for our most up to date information. We post our prayer requests, news as well as pictures and stories.

There is even a section to donate online. You can find us at: www.maffamily.org/maffamily.php?page=home&fid=201.

Ray + Julie Siebring,
C'las, Gabriella + Josiah

Praise & Prayer

Praise:

- Maintenance and cultural classes went well.

Prayer

- Clarity of thought and ability as Ray finishes flight classes.
- Remainder of our monthly ministry support to come in.

